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LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1996 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNION FOR THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Security Council to express their concern at the slow pace of the peace process. They have been informed that quartering of troops of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) virtually stopped after the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) on 8 May 1996 and has only resumed in the past two days. This means that about half of the declared number of UNITA troops are yet to be quartered nine months before the expected completion of the mission of UNAVEM III, as envisaged in paragraph 10 of resolution 976 (1995). The members of the Council expect the process of rapid quartering to resume immediately and to continue without interruption until completed by June 1996, in accordance with resolution 1055 (1996).

The members of the Council need evidence of the parties' steady and unswerving commitment to the peace process. The Council's acknowledgement in resolution 1055 (1996) of UNITA's efforts does not seem to have encouraged the sustained movement of UNITA troops to the quartering areas. The members of the Council urge you to fulfil your recent unilateral commitment to quarter 50,000 troops at the latest by 15 June 1996 and to increase significantly the number of workable weapons and other military equipment turned over by UNITA troops to UNAVEM III.

The members of the Security Council are also concerned that the military talks on the modalities for the integration of UNITA troops into the Angolan armed forces were not concluded on 15 May 1996 in accordance with the timetable agreed by all parties on the Joint Commission earlier this month. They understand that progress has been achieved in talks between the senior military leaders of the Government and UNITA in recent days. They urge you to resolve the remaining military issues quickly. You and President dos Santos agreed that the integration of UNITA troops into the Angolan armed forces and the demobilization of those troops not inducted into the unified armed forces would be completed by June 1996. The members of the Council urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure that your delegates successfully conclude the military talks immediately so that this important aspect of the peace process may proceed without further delay.

Finally, the members of the Council also hope to see progress soon on forming a Government of unity and national reconciliation and encourage you to make every effort in this regard.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
President of the Security Council